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Presenile Dementia

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Synonyms

[Early-onset dementia](#)

Definition

Presenile dementia, or early-onset dementia, is any dementia with onset before the age of 65. While it is still poorly understood, Alzheimer's disease is the major etiology, followed by vascular dementia, and Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration (Vieira et al. 2013). However, causes of presenile dementia can also include other neurodegenerative dementia, other vascular diseases, infectious disease, inflammatory and autoimmune disease, or neurometabolic disease. Although genetic etiologies are more common in presenile dementia compared with late onset (Miller 1975), the majority of cases do not have an identifiable, single genetic cause. Presenile cases have played a vital role in identifying

major potential pathologies for dementias. In fact, the term Alzheimer's disease was originally understood to be a presenile disorder, while late-onset dementia was poorly defined. Attributing the pathology of Alzheimer's disease in a presenile population to the senile population drastically altered the field (Greicius et al. 2002).

Cross-References

- ▶ [Alzheimer's Dementia](#)
- ▶ [Dementia](#)
- ▶ [Frontaltemporal Dementia](#)
- ▶ [Frontotemporal Lobar Degenerations](#)
- ▶ [Pick's Disease](#)

References and Readings

- Greicius, M., Geschwind, M., & Miller, B. (2002). Presenile dementia syndromes: An update on taxonomy and diagnosis. *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry*, 72(6), 691–700.
- Miller, E. (1975). Impaired recall and the memory disturbance in presenile dementia. *The British Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*, 14(1), 73–79.
- Vieira, R. N., Caixeta, L., Machado, S., et al. (2013). Epidemiology of early-onset dementia: A review of the literature. *Clinical Practice & Epidemiology in Mental Health*, 9, 88–95.